

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1 and 2 (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) A screw grommet comprising a shank to be inserted into a mounting hole in a workpiece and a flange formed at one end of the shank that is larger than the mounting hole in the workpiece, wherein a cavity is formed in the flange and the shank into which a tapping screw can be screwed to join a mounted member to the workpiece, wherein the shank has a rectangular cross-section appropriate for a rectangular cross-section mounting hole in the workpiece, wherein both the flange, and a section of the shank that extends from the flange a distance that is substantially less than the length of the shank, are divided by a plurality of axial slits, to allow a section of the shank to widen in a direction perpendicular to the axial direction of the shank by screwing the tapping screw into the cavity, wherein protrusions project from outer peripheral surfaces of the shank separated axially from the flange by about the thickness of the workpiece, wherein the

protrusions are arranged diagonally to one another in the
rectangular cross-section of the shank, wherein the axial
slits are formed in positions corresponding to the center of
all sides of the periphery of the rectangular cross-section
of the flange and the shank, wherein the protrusions have an
L-shaped cross-section embracing corresponding corners of
the rectangular cross-section of the shank in accordance
~~with Claim 2~~, wherein the slits terminate at about the
middle of the axial length of a portion of the cavity
engaged by threads of the screw, and wherein a section of
the cavity extending axially without slits toward the tip of
the shank has a length able to accommodate at least one
pitch length of the screwed in tapping screw.

Claim 4 (cancelled)

5. (previously presented) A screw grommet having a
shank and a flange at one end of the shank, the flange and
the shank having a cavity extending axially of the screw
grommet and the flange and the shank being divided by a
plurality of slits extending axially of the screw grommet
along only a portion of the axial length of the cavity,
wherein the flange and the shank have rectangular cross-

sections and the slits divide all sides of the rectangular cross-section of the flange.

6. (previously presented) A screw grommet according to Claim 5, wherein the shank has a plurality of protrusions projecting from outer peripheral surfaces of the shank at positions spaced from the flange.

7. (original) A screw grommet according to Claim 6, wherein the protrusions embrace corresponding corners of the rectangular cross-section of the shank.

8. (original) A screw grommet according to Claim 7, wherein the protrusions are disposed at opposite corners of the rectangular cross-section of the shank.

9. (original) A screw grommet according to Claim 6, wherein each of the protrusions has a shoulder facing the flange and has an inclined surface that approaches an outer surface of the shank in a direction toward a tip of the shank remote from the flange.

10. (original) A screw grommet according to Claim 6, wherein the screw grommet has an associated tapping screw

dimensioned to be screwed into the cavity through the flange, and wherein the slits extend over an axial length of the shank that is about half the axial length of threads of the screw.

Claim 11 (cancelled)